

Biography of Irma Ranney

By

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Irma Ranney, the seventh child of Albert Dayton and Catherine Wilson Ranney, was born on January 31, 1896, in Blue Hill Nebraska. Irma had mother's big brown eyes and dark brown hair, and developed into the most beautiful of the Ranney Girls.

We all had music lessons but Irma had a natural bent for music and could play many things by ear. She had a lovely touch and played all the popular music beautifully. She loved jewelry and pretty clothes, and always wanted to "to be in fashion". She always did her share and was helpful around the house in many ways. She had a more nervous temperament than the rest of us, and used to ring her hands during a storm that included thunder and lightning and gusting wind.

We moved to Red Cloud when she was in the second semester of the tenth grade. She was very pretty and caused quite a stir in the High School, causing many pangs of jealousy among the girls, for the most popular young man in High School was attracted to her. Irma was never forward, but always modest in her actions. She had a charming way of expressing herself no matter whom she was talking to.

Through the rest of High School she and Allan Blackledge paired off for all the parties, dances and picnics. It was a blow to her in her Senior year that she was not chosen to be the lead in the Senior Class Play, opposite Allan who was the leading man, the lead instead was given to the niece of the principal. They survived this and had many plans for the future. Allan had an appointment to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and planned a naval career. Irma planned to go to Cotner University where she majored in English and History and planned to teach in High School until she was married. During this time they could see each other only on Holidays, and when Allan had summer leave. But those were treasured times, and with the letters that went back and forth between them, their romance never faltered. Allan used to write to me now and then while I was in High School, and I was very much enthralled with their romance. Irma was popular in college and never lacked for dates. Many a young man pursued her, but though she was honest with them, they still wanted her company. Irma graduated from college and got a high school Teaching position teaching in the English Department in Dorchester, Nebraska. Allan had one more year at the Naval Academy due to the fact he had gone to a preparatory school in the East, before entering the Naval Academy.

When Allan graduated she was allowed to go to his graduation with his parents, Judge and Mrs. Blackledge. The parents of the two had persuaded them to put off their marriage for another year, for Allan had contracted some debts for his graduation, that needed to be paid off and he would be on a Naval Cruise for most of his first year.